



## Town of Garner NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:** Rick Mercier,  
Communications Manager  
**Phone:** (919) 773-4418  
**Email:** [rmercier@garnernc.gov](mailto:rmercier@garnernc.gov)

### **Dickerson Named Interim Town Manager**

The Town Council has named Assistant Town Manager-Operations Rodney Dickerson to serve as Garner's interim town manager, replacing Town Manager Hardin Watkins, who is leaving the Town on Jan. 4 to become city manager in Burlington, N.C.

The Town Council made the appointment during a closed session at its Dec. 15 regular meeting. Dickerson assumes his interim manager duties on Jan. 5. He previously served as interim town manager for several weeks before Watkins was named town manager in 2007 and for two other brief stints while town managers were out for health-related reasons.

Dickerson joined the Town of Garner in 2001 and has over 14 and a half years of professional local government executive experience. He was appointed assistant town manager in 2004 after serving for over three years as assistant to the town manager. Dickerson is currently assistant town manager over operations and is responsible for overseeing the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Public Works and Information Technology departments as well as the neighborhood improvement manager.

"Rodney has a wealth of professional experience and has the trust and respect of staff and the Town's elected leaders," Mayor Ronnie Williams said. "It's very reassuring that he has stepped in before as interim manager. He knows what to do, and he will have the support of a talented and dedicated staff. Citizens can expect a continuation of excellent service from the Town."

Dickerson earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1990 and a master of public administration from N.C. State University in 2001. He completed the UNC-CH Public Executive Leadership Academy in 2007. He recently received the credentialed manager designation from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA).

The Town Council has not yet announced plans for selecting a permanent successor to Watkins.

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